



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NADIA LOCKYER
Supervisor, Second District

LOCKYER HONORS TWO YOUNG GRADUATES OF THE BAY AREA YOUTH EMT PROGRAM

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Contact: Christine Gasparac at (510) 272-6692

OAKLAND—Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer announced today that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors honored a former gang member and a former “street hustler” who enrolled in a program that trains youth from low-income communities to become certified emergency medical technicians.

In the certificate presented to the two men, Lockyer said, “you have greatly exemplified that there are no mistakes, only lessons. We are proud of your efforts to make Alameda County a better place for children and families.”

Carl Bolds, 21, of East Oakland, currently works as a vehicle service technician for American Medical Response, an ambulance company. As a teen-ager, Carl spent most of his life hustling in the streets of East Oakland and was arrested several times. Carl is being honored for making the decision to turn his life around by enrolling in the Bay Area Youth EMT Program. Carl is studying to be a paramedic.

“Mr. Wellington (Executive Director of Bay Area Youth EMT) does not only train you on how to become an EMT, he challenges your thinking and wants you to become a better person. I can honestly say had it not been for the Bay EMT program, I would still be in the streets hustling,” Carl said.

Ernesto Diaz, 18, of Berkeley, is a former gang member who spent eight months in Camp Wilmont Sweeney, a juvenile detention facility, on assault and battery charges. While incarcerated, he enrolled in the Life Coaching/First Responder’s program, which is operated by the Alameda County Public Health Department in partnership with Bay Area Youth EMT. When Ernesto was released from Camp Sweeney, he attended Bay Area Youth EMT’s certification program and is now a certified CPR instructor working for Royal Ambulance. His goal is to become a certified emergency medical technician.

Ernesto added, “The Life Coaching and Bay EMT program helped me change my way of thinking and made me want to become a better person and give back to my community.” Ernesto now volunteers his time as a skills instructor to incoming Bay Area Youth EMT students.



The Bay Area Youth EMT Program, created in 2002 and based in San Leandro, works in partnership with the Alameda County Public Health Department's Emergency Medical Services to increase diversity in the emergency medical services profession by teaching emergency medical skills to inner-city youth. The curriculum emphasizes community service and is offered at no cost to students. For more information on the program, go to www.bayemt.org.

Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer of Hayward represents District Two on the Board of Supervisors, which includes Hayward, Newark, Union City, Sunol and parts of Fremont.

###